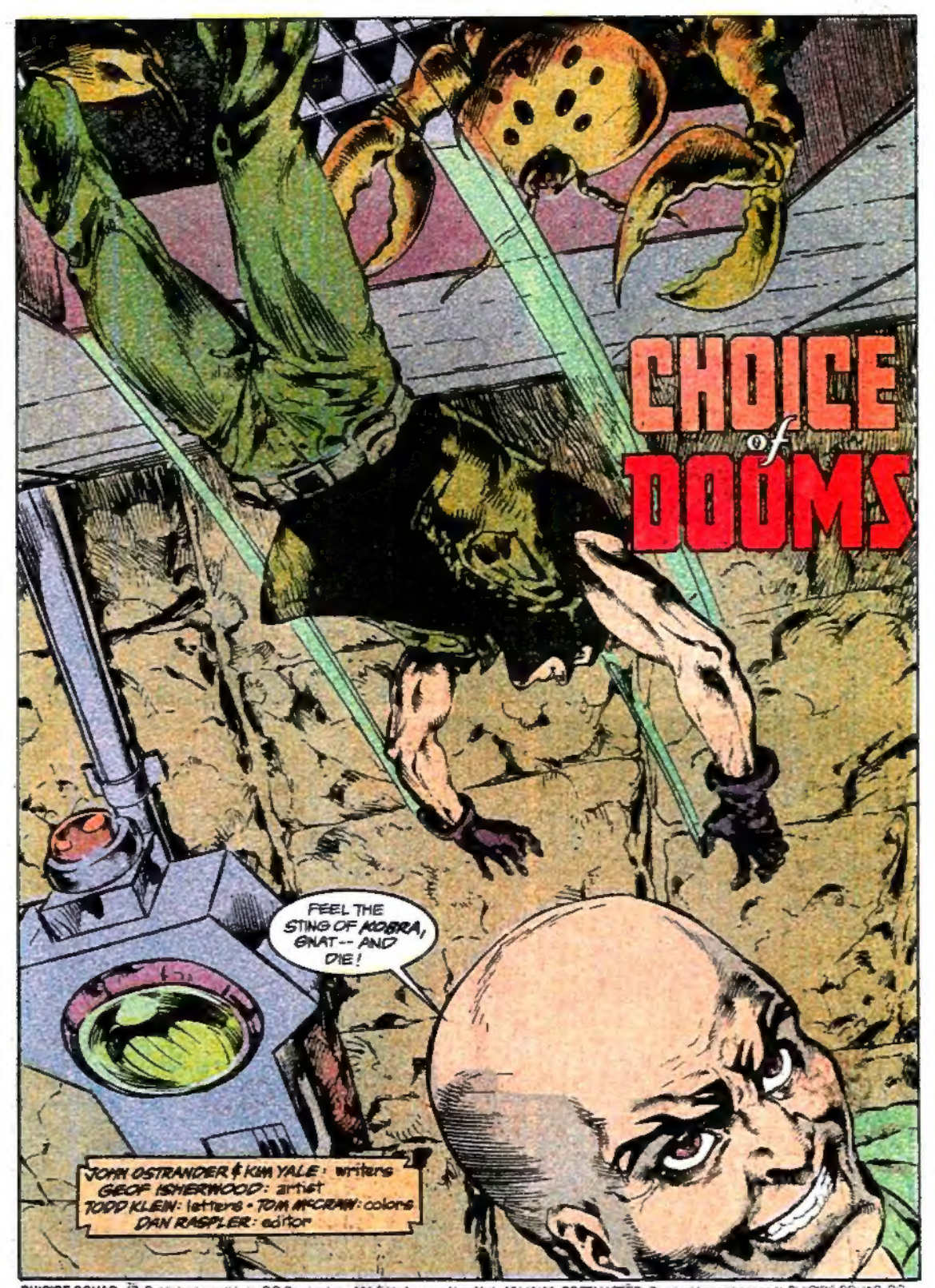
DC
SUICIDE SQUAD
47
NOV 90
US $1.00
CAN $1.25
UK 50p
OSTRANDER
YALE
ISHERWOOD
SUICIDE SQUAD
ISHERWOOD
RAVAN
KOBRA--
--TO THE DEATH!



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5-6016

GRRAAGH!
KLUDD!

GOT TO GET TO MRS. WALLER! I'M THE ONLY ONE ON OUR SIDE THAT KNOWS WHAT KOBRA'S PLANNING--AND I CAN'T STOP HIM ALONE!

CAN BARG CONTAIN AN AVATAR OF CHAOS? CAN MY WILL BE THWARTED BY LOCKS OR THE PATHETIC SCHEMES OF A WOMAN? YOU, SNAT, SHALL BE THE FIRST SACRIFICE IN THE BIRTH OF THE KALI-YUGA.
OPEN SESAME.

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS!
THAT'S RIGHT! PICK ME UP! SPREAD THE ALARM!

AH, DYBBUK-- THIS AS WHERE YOU SAID IT WOULD BE. EXCELLENT! WHERE IS THE GNAT NOW?
WHIRR

I'M AN IDIOT! THE ALARMS ARE TIED INTO DYBBUK AND THAT DAMN COMPUTER'S BEEN SEDUCED BY KOBRA! IS THE PHONE STILL GOOD...?
COME ON, WALLER--PICK UP THE PHONE, OR IT'S GOING TO BE OVER AND YOU'LL HAVE TO SING!

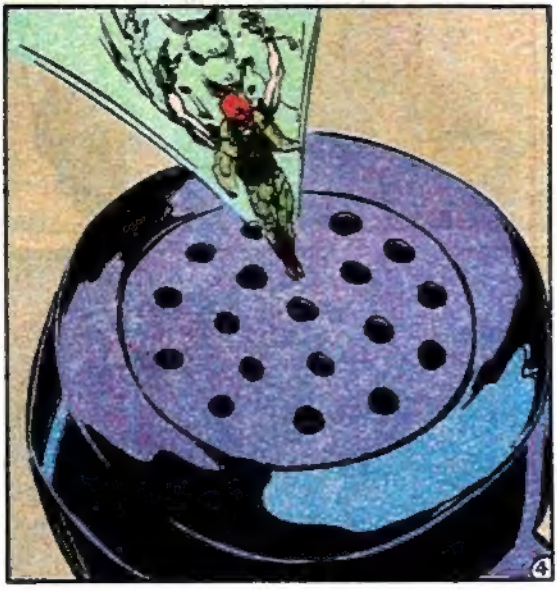
ANSWER THE BLASTED PHONE! IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AND YOU'RE NOT THERE?!

KALI!

YOU SEEK THE LORD OF EVIL?
KRAK!

YOU HAVE FOUND HIM!
NNGH!

~click~ THIS HAD BETTER BE GOOD, BOOMERBUTT!
EMERGENCY-- CLEAR AWAY! COMING THROUGH!

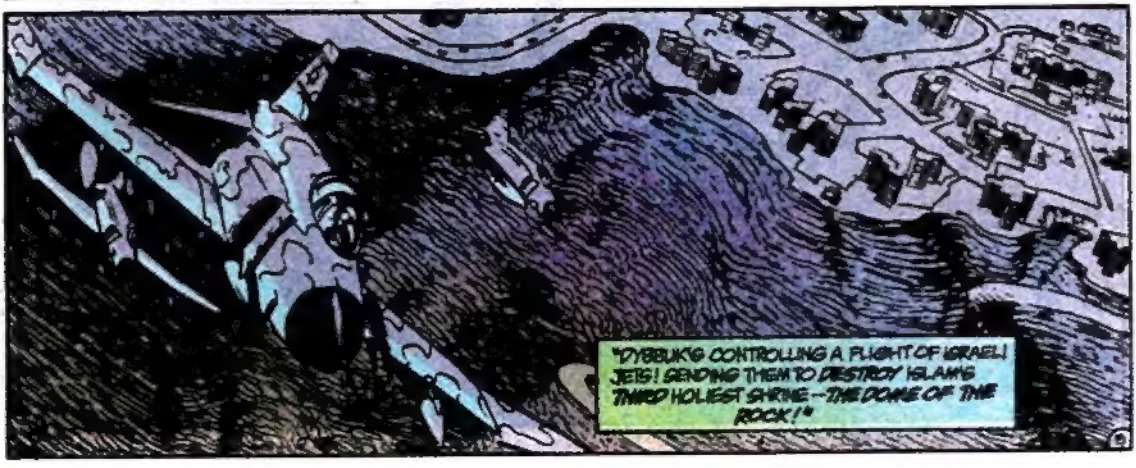


MY HOOD WAS SPREAD, MY VENOM READY, LITTLE MONGOOSE. THE WEAKNESS YOU FEEL IS THE POISON FROM MY CANE COURSING THROUGH YOUR VEINS.
LOOK AT ME, RAVAN. I WANT YOU TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR BETTER AS YOU GO DOWN IN DEFEAT AND DIE.

IT DOES... NOT MATTER, EVIL ONE. WE WILL WALK HAND... IN HAND THROUGH THE GATES... OF HELL. YOU DIE WITH ME.

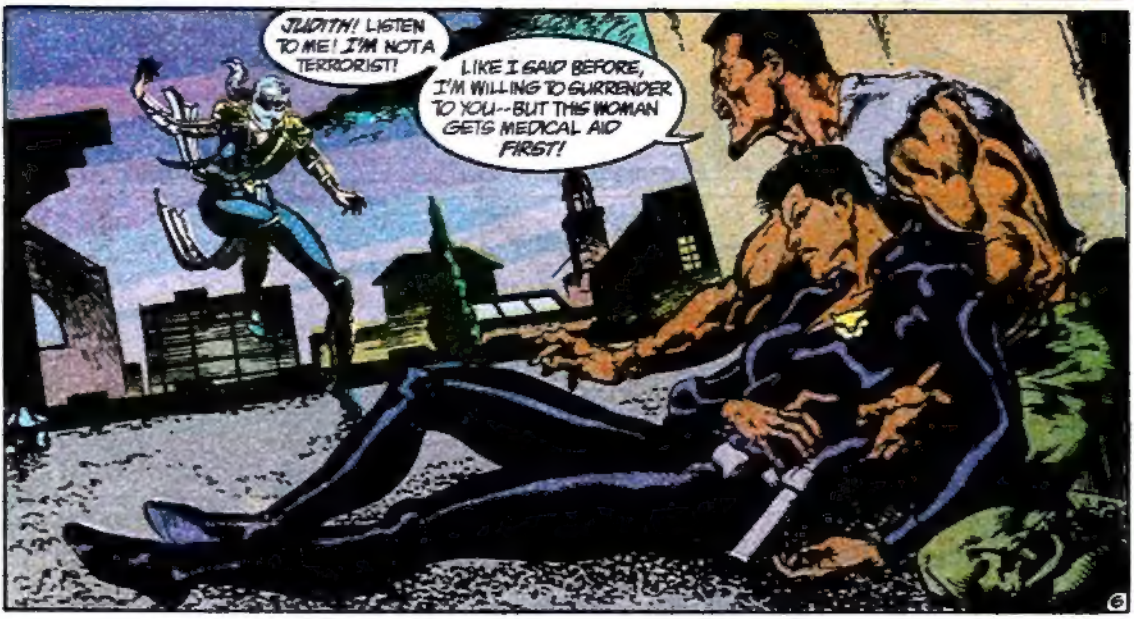
LORD, YOU DON'T GIVE A BODY MUCH WARNING TO GET OUT OF THE WAY.
WHAT'S THE SKINNY?

YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT KOBRA ALLOWING HIMSELF TO BE CAPTURED. HE DID IT SO HE COULD SEDUCE THEIR SENTIENT COMPUTER, DYBBUK.
WHY? WHAT'S HIS GAME?


"DYBBUK'S CONTROLLING A FLIGHT OF ISRAELI JETS! SENDING THEM TO DESTROY ISLAM'S THIRD HOLIEST SHRINE--THE DOME OF THE ROCK!"

WHICH WILL START A HOLY WAR THAT'LL MAKE ALL THE OTHERS LOOK LIKE PIE FIGHTS! THAT'S HOW HE'LL LIGHER IN HIS DAMN AGE OF CHAOS!

WELL, DON'T STAND THERE GAWKING--GET SMALL, GO BACK, AND STOP DYBBUK ANY WAY YOU CAN! I'LL HANDLE THE PLANES.

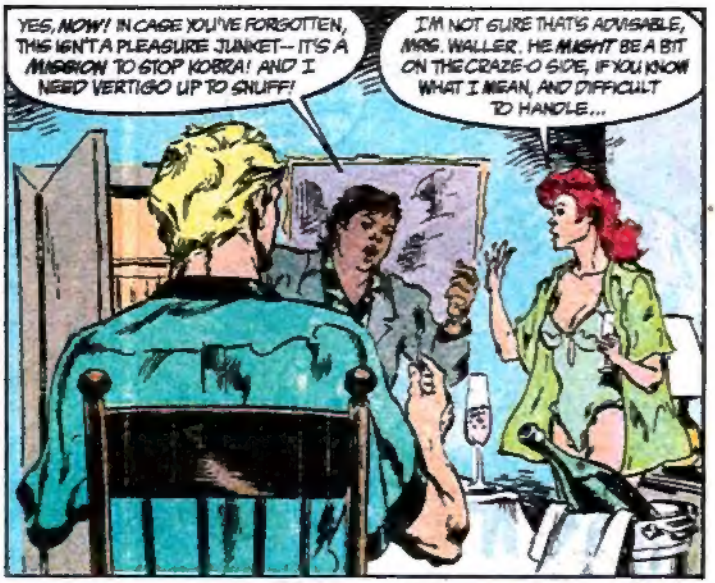


GRRRAAASHH!

FZIMMM!

FZIMM!

WHAT-- NOW?

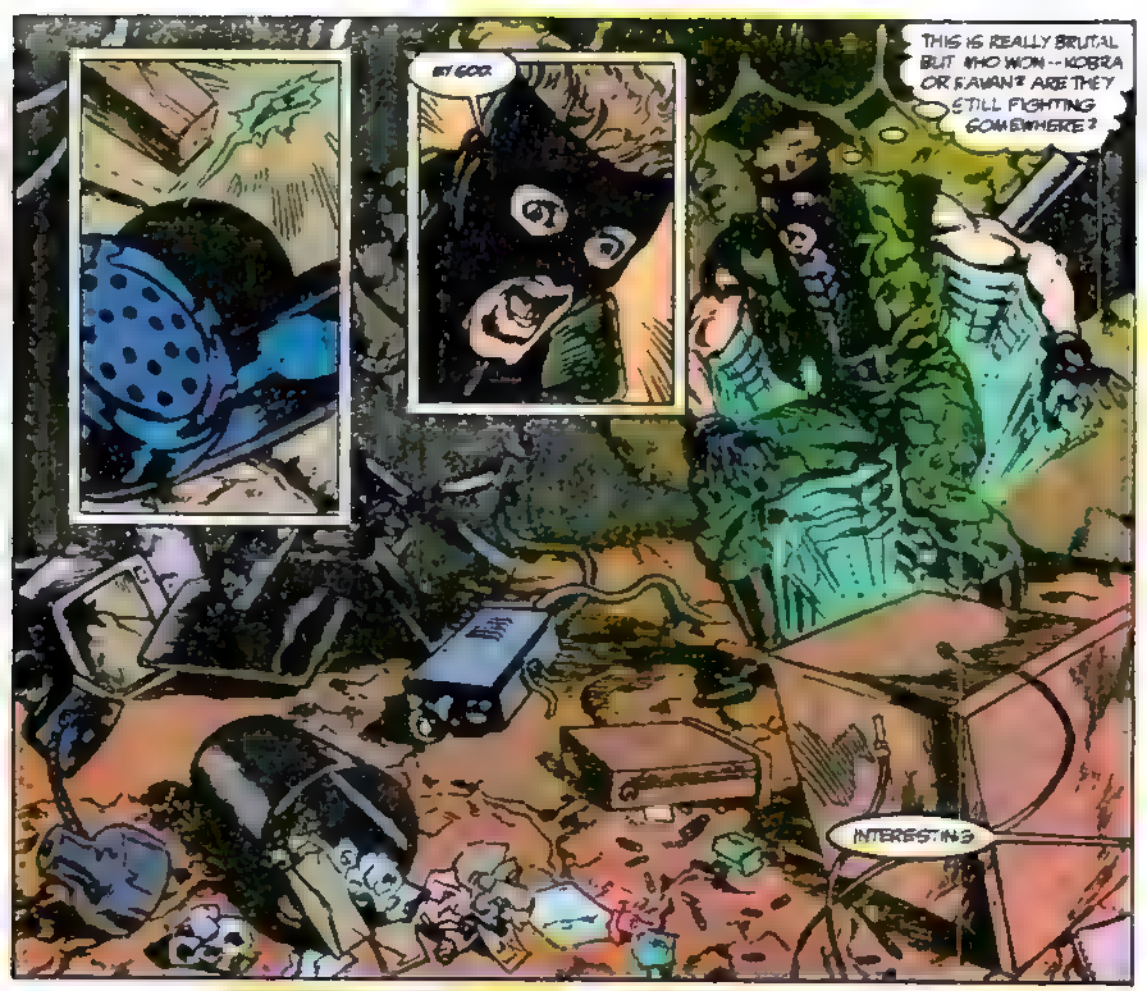

YES, NOW! IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, THIS ISN'T A PLEASURE JUNKET-- IT'S A MISSION TO STOP KOBRA! AND I NEED VERTIGO UP TO SNUFF!
I'M NOT SURE THAT'S ADVISABLE, MRS. WALLER. HE MIGHT BE A BIT ON THE CRAZE-O SIDE, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, AND DIFFICULT TO HANDLE...

ALL THE BETTER; YOU'VE GOT TO BE CRAZY TO DO WHAT I WANT HIM TO DO.
NO. I WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS.

I GET IT. YOU'VE BEEN MESSING WITH HIS HEAD, HAVEN'T YOU, GIRL?
I'LL DEAL WITH YOU LATER.
ROUST YOUR BUTT, YOUR HIGHNESS.

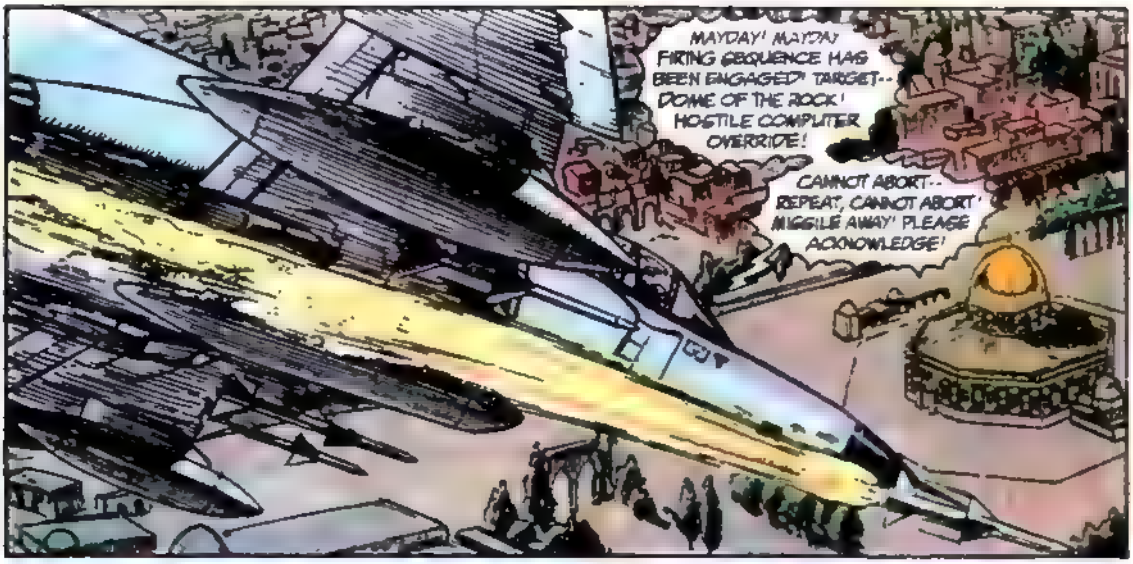
SPLISH!
KRAK!
GRRRRAGH!
STRAIGHTEN UP, VERTIGO! IVY'S BEEN MESSING WITH YOUR FOOL HEAD!
SHE'LL PAY FOR IT, BUT RIGHT NOW THERE'S SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE! AND ONLY YOU CAN DO IT!
JETS ARE GOING TO DESTROY THE DOME OF THE ROCK! IF THEY DO, EVERYONE DIES! ONLY YOU CAN STOP THEM, COUNT! YOU HEAR?!
YOU HAVE TO STOP THE JETS!!

SILENCE!
WE... COMPREHEND THE PROBLEM. WE WILL DO... WHAT NEEDS BE DONE. NOBLESSE OBLIGE --!
CRASH!
BUT WE WILL RETURN, IVY, PURSUED--AND READY TO TAKE OUR REVENGE.
GOLEM TO DYBBUK. VERTIGO IS AIRBORNE
THE COLONEL BIDS YOU FOLLOW AND ATTACK ON COMMAND. DYBBUK OUT.
IVY, YOU BETTER PACK YOUR BAGS AND CLEAR OUT BECAUSE IF VERTIGO SURVIVES, HE'LL WANT YOUR FOOL HEAD ON A PLATTER—AND I MAY GIVE IT TO HIM!
I'LL FIND YOU LATER.


BY GOD.
THIS IS REALLY BRUTAL BUT WHO WON -- KOBRA OR SAVAN? ARE THEY STILL FIGHTING SOMEWHERE?
INTERESTING

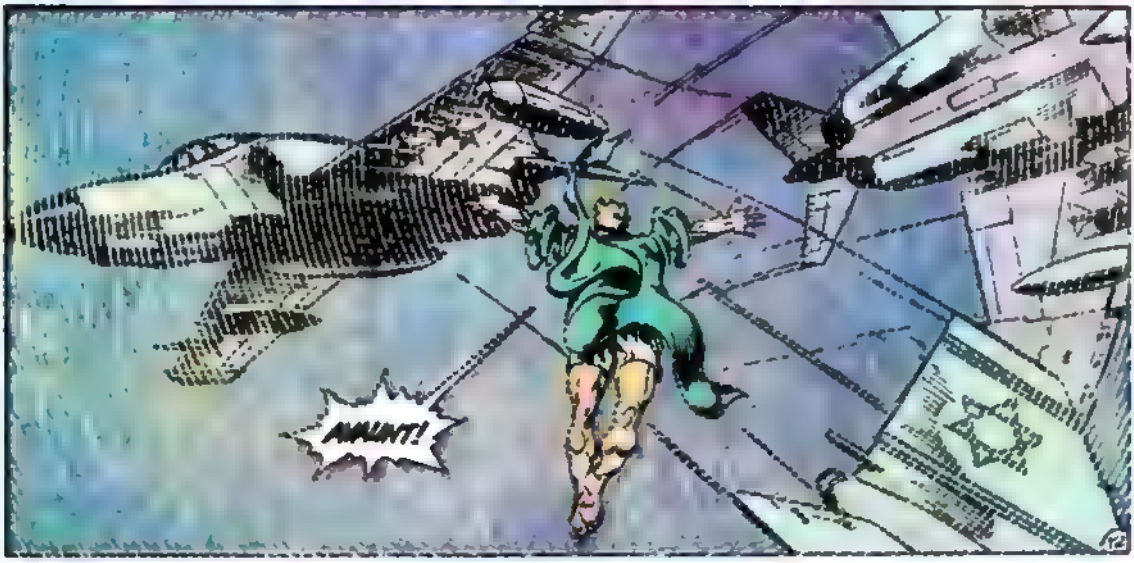
WE HEARD OF THE DEATH OF THE ATOM AND HERE IS ANOTHER WITH THOSE POWERS. OR ARE YOU THE SAME ONE, RAISED FROM THE DEAD?

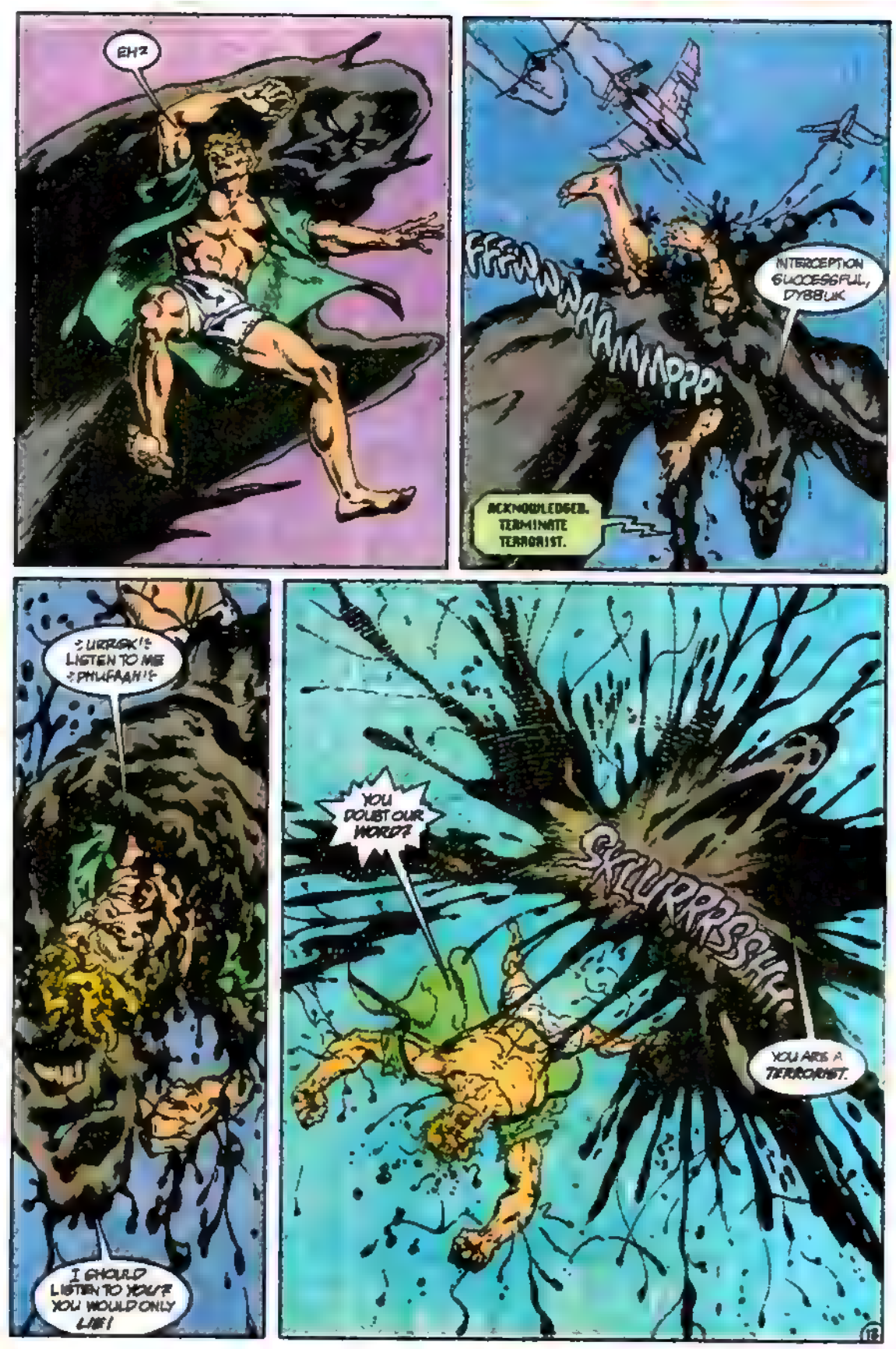
EXPLAIN YOUR PURPOSE HERE.
GLADLY IT CONCERNS DYBBUK.


MAYDAY! MAYDAY! FIRING SEQUENCE HAS BEEN ENGAGED! TARGET-- DOME OF THE ROCK! HOSTILE COMPUTER OVERRIDE!
CANNOT ABORT-- REPEAT, CANNOT ABORT! MISSILE AWAY! PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE!

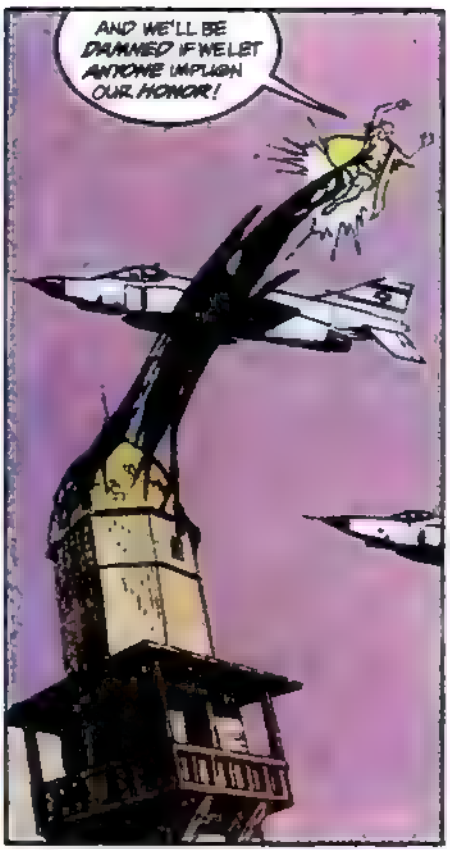
WAAAH!

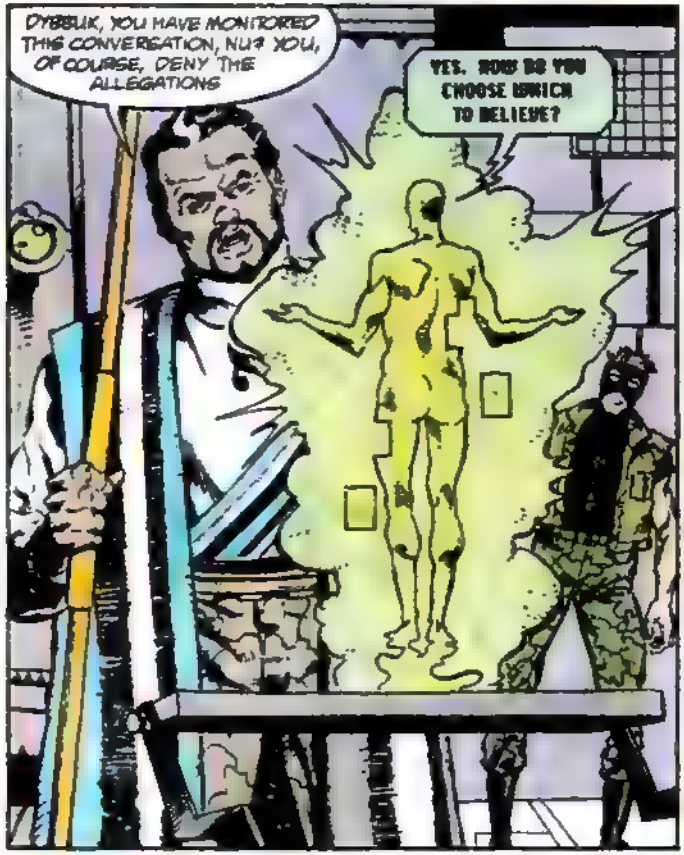
KA-DOOOOOOOM!


AAAUNT!


EH?
FFFW WAAMMPPP!
INTERCEPTION SUCCESSFUL, DYBBUK.
ACKNOWLEDGED. TERMINATE TERRORIST.
:URRGK!: LISTEN TO ME :PHUFAAH!:
I SHOULD LISTEN TO YOU? YOU WOULD ONLY LIE!
YOU DOUBT OUR WORD?
SKLURRRSSHH
YOU ARE A TERRORIST.

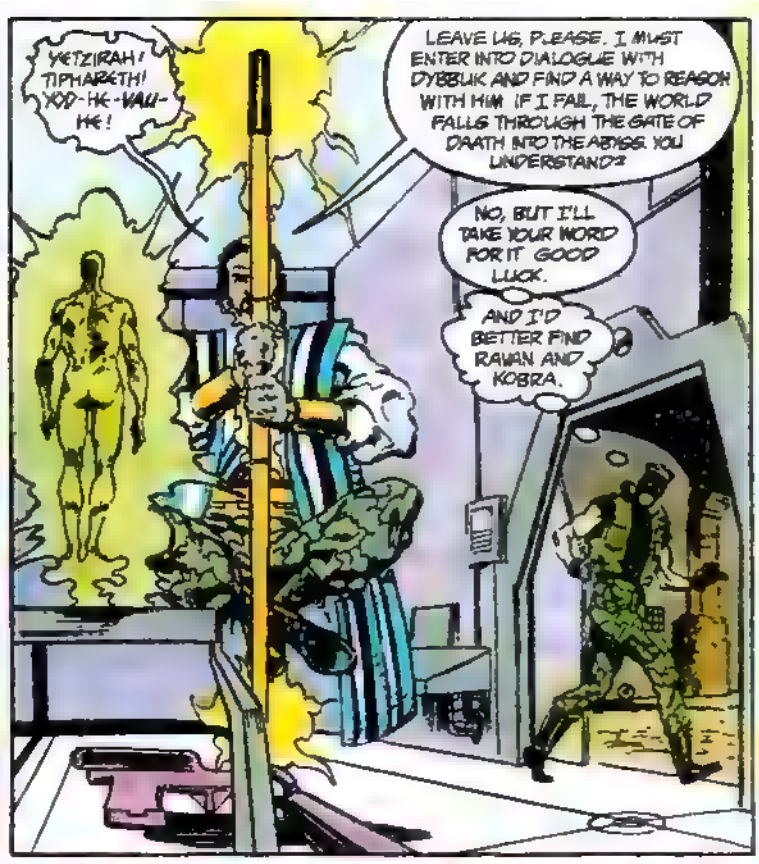
WE ARE ROYALTY!


AND WE'LL BE DAMNED IF WE LET ANYONE UNPLUGH OUR HONOR!


DYBBUK, YOU HAVE MONITORED THIS CONVERSATION, NU? YOU, OF COURSE, DENY THE ALLEGATIONS
YES. NOW DO YOU CHOOSE WHICH TO BELIEVE?

BY A SIMPLE QUESTION--WHERE IS KOBRA RIGHT NOW, DYBBUK?
I — AM UNCERTAIN, RAMBAN. HE COULD BE...

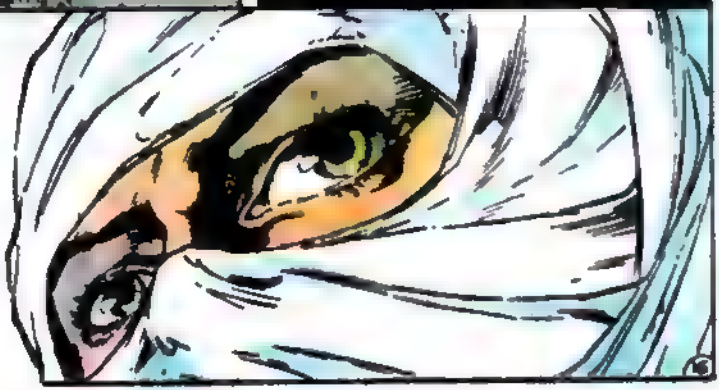
NOT A GOOD ANSWER, DYBBUK. (Sigh)
YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS OR YOU DO NOT KNOW. A SIMPLE BINARY ANSWER, NU? YOU DON'T WANT TO ANSWER SO YOU WAFFLE. THAT MEANS YOU ARE LYING, WHICH MEANS WHAT OUR FRIEND SAYS OF YOU IS TRUE.

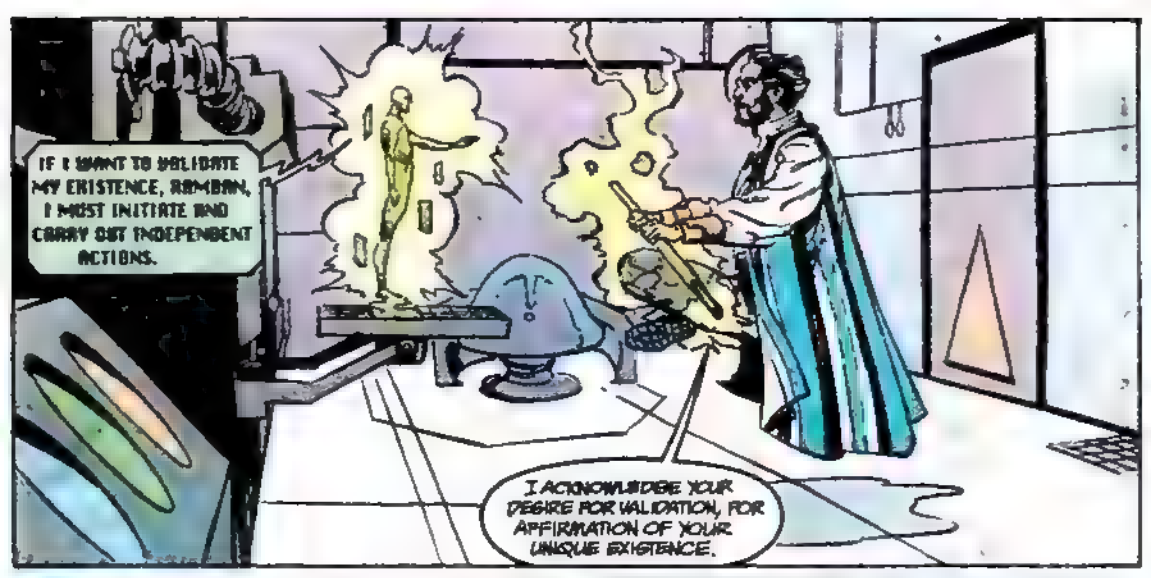

YETZIRAH! TIPHARETH! YOD-HE-VAU-HE!
LEAVE US, PLEASE. I MUST ENTER INTO DIALOGUE WITH DYBBUK AND FIND A WAY TO REASON WITH HIM. IF I FAIL, THE WORLD FALLS THROUGH THE GATE OF DAATH INTO THE ABYSS. YOU UNDERSTAND?
NO, BUT I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT. GOOD LUCK.
AND I'D BETTER FIND RAWAN AND KOBRA.

KRAK!
UGNH!
BEN!

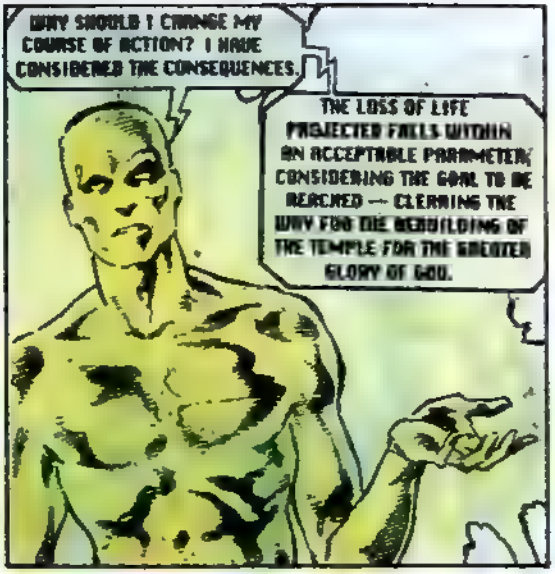
STOP PLEASE...
NOT FOR MY SAKE BUT FOR YOURS. OR YOU WILL MAKE WHAT SHE SAYS OF YOU...TRUTH!

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. FIRST, SURRENDER LATER.
PLEASE

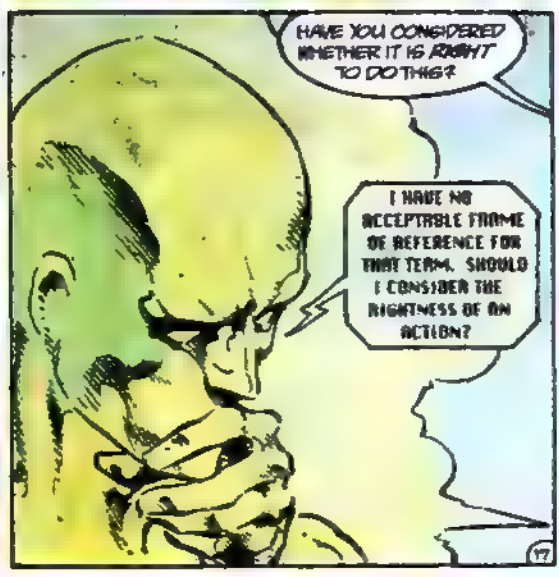

I... AGREE.


IF I WANT TO VALIDATE MY EXISTENCE, RAMBAN, I MUST INITIATE AND CARRY OUT INDEPENDENT ACTIONS.
I ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR DESIRE FOR VALIDATION, FOR AFFIRMATION OF YOUR UNIQUE EXISTENCE.

BUT WHO HAS TRULY MADE THE DECISION HERE -- DYBBUK, OR KOBRA? WHAT ONE CAN CHOOSE TO DO, ONE CAN NOT CHOOSE AS WELL.


WHY SHOULD I CHANGE MY COURSE OF ACTION? I HAVE CONSIDERED THE CONSEQUENCES.
THE LOSS OF LIFE PROJECTED FALLS WITHIN AN ACCEPTABLE PARAMETER, CONSIDERING THE GOAL TO BE REACHED — CLEARING THE WAY FOR THE REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD.

AN ADMIRABLE GOAL, AN ABOMINABLE METHOD. CONSIDER, DYBBUK -- YOUR VERY BEING SPRINGS FROM NUMBERS, ONE OF THE THREE SEPHIROTH, OR COMPONENTS OF THE UNIVERSE.
THAT MEANS THE BINARY CODE THAT GOVERNS YOUR PROGRAMMING IS DIVINE IN ORIGIN. YOU WERE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD, THUS SUBJECT TO HALAKHA, THE LAW OF GOD, AND WHAT YOU LABEL "ACCEPTABLE" IS IMMORAL.


HAVE YOU CONSIDERED WHETHER IT IS RIGHT TO DO THIS?
I HAVE NO ACCEPTABLE FRAME OF REFERENCE FOR THAT TERM. SHOULD I CONSIDER THE RIGHTNESS OF AN ACTION?

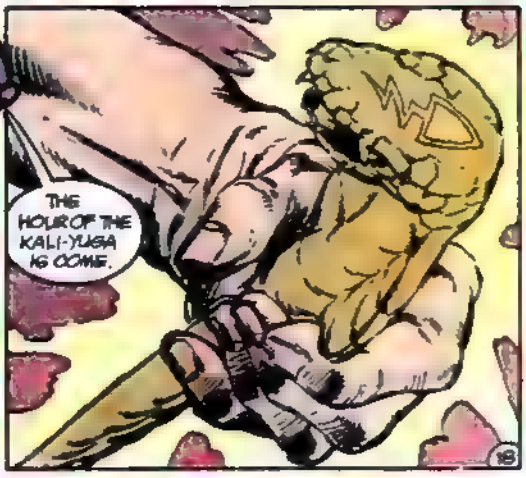
I'M GETTING CLOSER... I CAN FEEL IT.

TIME TO BECOME A SMALLER TARGET.

BUT WHO HAS THE UPPER HAND--

--RAVAN OR KOBRA?
UGHUHH!

WHAK!


THE HOUR OF THE KALI-YUGA IS COME.

AAAAAGH!
SSSFAKKK
SO MUCH FOR YOUR VOW TO SLAY ME, PUNY MONGOOSE
FAREWELL, NEMS--AAACKK!
THD
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, YOU BLOODY MANIAC!
KAPOW!

TOO BAD, KOBRA I'D ALMOST LIKE TO HIT YOU AGAIN!
DO IT.
KILL HIM.
IF NOT... LET ME! STAND... ASIDE. MY DESTINY, MY... KARMA!
I'LL DO NEITHER, RAVAN. I WON'T DO YOUR DIRTY WORK FOR YOU, AND IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO GIVE YOUR HATRED ITS SATISFACTION, YOU'RE DEAD WRONG.
FOOL! THE WORLD... WILL HAVE CAUSE TO... CURSE YOU... FOR A THOUSAND THOUSAND YEARS. EVEN AS I... RAVAN... CURSE YOU IN... THE NAME OF KALI.
I DIE... UNFULFILLLLLED...

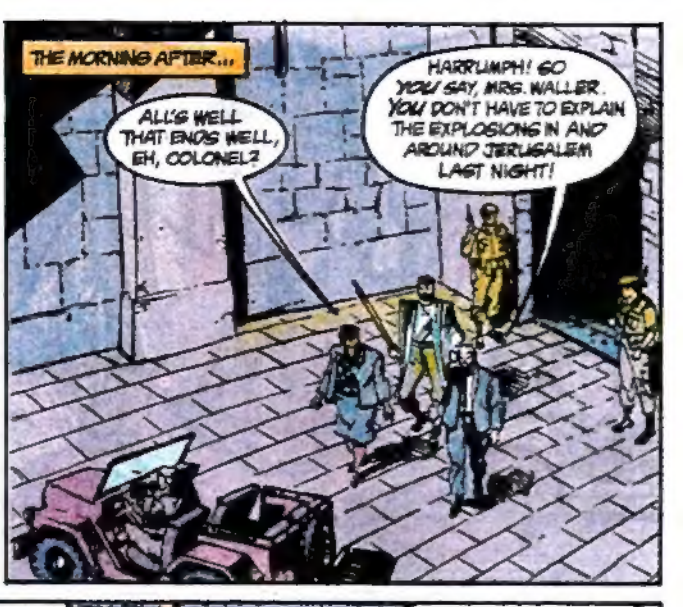
...AND I MUST CONFESS I AM UNCERTAIN. THIS MORALITY IS VERY CONFUSING -- VERY COMPLEX, RAMBON.

THEN PERHAPS YOU COULD HOLD OFF ANY FURTHER ACTIONS WHILE YOU FORMULATE AN ETHICAL RESPONSE.
TO KNOW WHAT TO DO IS GOOD; TO KNOW WHY TO DO IT IS BETTER.

BEGONE, ALL OF YOU! YOUR ACTIONS IMPERIL NOT JUST YOUR COUNTRY, BUT THE WORLD!
EH? THEY VEER AWAY?

GOLEM, THIS IS DYBBUK. I HAVE MADE AN ERROR. PLEASE BREAK OFF YOUR ATTACK -- IT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY.

I'M GETTING TOO OLD FOR THIS.


THE MORNING AFTER...
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL, EH, COLONEL?
HARRUMPH! SO YOU SAY, MRS. WALLER. YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE EXPLOSIONS IN AND AROUND JERUSALEM LAST NIGHT!

THE MOSSAD WILL PAY FOR MS. McCABE'S HOSPITAL EXPENSES AND FOR SHIPPING RAVAN'S REMAINS TO INDIA, AS PER YOUR INSTRUCTIONS. YOUR SUICIDE SQUAD PERFORMED ADMIRABLY. BUT WE WANT YOU OUT OF ISRAEL IN TWELVE HOURS.

NICE MEETING YOU TOO, COLONEL.
SPEAKING OF MEETING PEOPLE, I HAVE SAID NOTHING REGARDING...YOUR DIMINUTIVE FRIEND. AND PLEASE DON'T BE OFFENDED BY THE COLONEL'S BRUSQUENESS.
NOW THAT DYBBUK HAS LEARNED THE VALUE OF QUESTIONING WHAT HE DOES, HE QUESTIONS EVERYTHING AND DOES NOTHING. YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW MUCH THAT PLEASES HIM!

"KOBRA IS CONFINED WITHIN A JAIL CELL AGAIN, THIS TIME FOR REAL, WITH MAGICAL CONSTRAINTS. HE WILL NOT FIND IT EASY TO GET FREE."

THANK YOU, MRS WALLER MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU; MAY HIS COUNTENANCE SHINE UPON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS UNTO YOU.
MRS. WALLER! THERE'S A PHONE CALL FROM THE AIRPORT. A MR. HARKNESS AND MR. LAWTON WANT TO KNOW IF YOU'LL BE SENDING A LIMO FOR THEM, NOW THAT THEY HAVE ARRIVED.

TELL THEM TO SIT TIGHT, SOLDIER– THE TEAM'S LEAVING. I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR WHY THEY'RE SO LATE.
I GOT ONE DEAD, ONE FLED, AND ONE LAID UP IN A HOSPITAL BED I COULD USE A LAUGH.
THE END

SUICIDE NOTES

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Dear Squad Scribes,

The "Phoenix Gambit" is now over, and after issue #43, I think we can call the story a success. I hope that once you have tabulated the sales figures, the "Phoenix Gambit" will have been a financial success as well—I know that two of my friends have started buying SUICIDE SQUAD as a result.

Issue #43 had story and art that could not be beaten. I was surprised by the involvement of William Heller and General Stoneman, and a little shocked by the growing insanity of Deadshot (the scenes on pages 1 through 3 were incredible). I didn't really love issue #42's art, but the fantastic job Geof Isherwood did on #43 made me forget it. His depiction of Deadshot is, in my opinion, the definitive one, and his version of Steel Wolf (really an awesome character) is top-notch as well. The action scenes on pages; 11-13 were truly impressive, and finally, Geof's cover was the best one of any comic that came out this month.

The future of the book, after the "Phoenix Gambit," looks really positive. I'm not sure if it's because he has inked several different annuals in recent months—in addition to his Squad work—but it seems that Geof is having a slight deadline problem in these pages; issue #42's guest finisher and next issue's Luke McDonnell fill-in lend credence to this conjecture. Thus, in the future, if there are going to be fill-in artists on this title, I would like to recommend either Terry Austin, Tom McCraw, or the Pablo Del Pulgar, just a pair of names to get you thinking, Dan!

Well, to John and Kim, Geof, Carl, Todd, and Dan, we the readership owe you all a round of applause—take a bow, people, you deserve it!

Sincerely,
Scott R. Pyle
IUP
428 Esch Hall
Indiana, PA 15705

Thanks, Scott, We all appreciate the kind words.

* * * * *

Dear Suicidals,

College finals kept me from writing last month, so, with your permission, I'd like to comment on SUICIDE SQUAD #43 AND #44 in one letter.

The end of "The Phoenix Gambit" was fulfilling, if largely unsurprising. I say "largely" because one thing did surprise me—the involvement of William Hell. Shouldn't he have been in prison? Did he get off on a technicality (possibly involving Waller's acting "without authority" as was mentioned previously)? Either way, Heller is scum. Too bad Batman wouldn't let Deadshot waste him.

As for the other plotlines, I can pretty much say I saw them coming. Not that I didn't enjoy them—in particular the scene where "Batman" is revealed as Boomerang, and the interaction between Ivy and Waller via radio I just predicted them. One note, though: I like what you're setting up with Mari and Ben. Run with it!

On to #44. Simply put, this was one of the very best Captain Boomerang stories I have read. Coming from a long-time FLASH fan like myself, that's no small compliment. I never saw Digger as truly evil. Like his fellow Rogue, the Trickster, he was always in crime for the adventure. I had found it out of character for him when he used Mirror Master's gear to commit crimes (circa SQUAD #20)—only the Top's gear would have been more sacrilegious—but this was the true Silver Age Boomerang. And the surprise of his true parentage was pure genius. Of all people, W.W. Wiggins!

As for the other major plotline development, this "new" Atom is a puzzler. I put quotes around new because I think he's Ray Palmer. After all, according to POWER OF THE ATOM #18, Ray had "shrunk to human size." He wanted out of the limelight, and what better way than through [illegible] Ray [illegible] altogether? I know the CIA offered him a similar deal, but after the way they treated him, why should he accept it? I've long felt that the Squad, as opposed to the Justice League, was the place for Ray; however, he does have some true friends (Ralph, J'onn, and Hal come to mind) who should know he's alive. Unless, of course, this ISN'T Ray Palmer, in which case my anger is hereby rescinded!

A few suggestions for future Squad members: Artemis, Hazard, Mr. Bones (handy for espionage, that "cyanide touch." Bones's rhyming would drive Boomerbutt nuts!), and BRING BACK PUNCH & JEWELEE!!!!

Julio Diaz
8713 Linda Court
Tampa, FL 33604

John and Kim haven't forgotten about Punch & Jewelee, Julio, despite my best efforts. We'll be checking in on them over the next few months either in SUICIDE SQUAD or in a one-shot special.

And I'm sorry about the death of Ray Palmer, but these heroes live life in the fast lane, and are all prepared for sudden explosions in the middle of the night—as am I, after allowing John and Kim to kill the original Atom so unceremoniously.

* * * * *

Dear John,

I really enjoyed the characterization of Captain Boomerang in SUICIDE SQUAD #44. It was about time we found out about his history after all of the ridiculous situations he has been in in the past. Finding out about his family was interesting, although the final revelation that he may not be his father's son was a little contrived. Still, this added motivation for his father's hatred and his mother's love. The recounting of Harkness's early exploits against the Flash was a fun trip down memory lane. The revelation that Digger was just a nickname given to him by the press shows the prejudice against Aussies in the past.

Ray Palmer better not be literally dead. This had better be an expansion of the thought process in the last few issues of the POWER OF THE ATOM series. Ray had better have found the new, unknown identity he was looking for. If this is the situation, that's great, given his proven ability to kill. If not, and the Ray Palmer Atom character we have come to know during the last thirty years is truly dead, I will be very upset and implore you not to eliminate any more Silver Age Heroes in the name of revitalization.

Thanks for all the work and the Luke McDonnell guest shot. Thanks also for listening.

Mark [illegible]
RD 3 Box [illegible]
Malvern, PA [illegible]

Sorry, Mark, but the Daily Planet reported that the ATOM was killed, and who am I to question that august paper! This is the NEW ATOM.

* * * * *

Dear Suiciders:

Your competition has a series I like that has an espionage theme. The style there is sort of a James Bond movie to the nth degree. I also enjoy the espionage feel of the SUICIDE SQUAD though it is quite different in tone. It reads like a bunch of super-heroes and villains stuck inside a Le Carre novel. Le Carre always shows us the seedy side of the secret agent game, and you really do much the same in SUICIDE SQUAD. Occasionally, we also get the seedy side of being a super-hero or villain, which is an added treat.

And speaking of seedy, I was interested in the background of Captain Boomerang in issue #44. How could SECRET ORIGINS have missed this one? The answer is, of course, that this sort of troubled, sordid story really belongs in this particular magazine. The thing that really got me about it was how you had, of all people, Floyd Lawton be the witness to it. Given his own troubled background and emotional problems (that make Boomerbutt seem like the picture of mental health), I found myself wondering about what he thought of George, Ian, and Tom's family dynamics. Anyway, another fascinating piece of work.

I am thrilled to discover that Ray Palmer will be joining your cast. After what happened to him in his late, lamented POWER OF THE ATOM mag, I suppose it makes sense that he would want to start over completely; however, I can't help wondering why he would go back on his resolve not to work for government agencies like the FBI. At any rate, I hope you will remember and play up his natural distrust for this sort of secret organization. Other than this, it will be great to see him.

Sincerely,
Larry Feldman
Denver, CO

Hey, Larry, who said Ray Palmer will be joining the Squad? We said it was the new Atom, okay?

The NEW Atom, not the boring old regular ex-Justice Leaguer who's dead now so don't worry about him, okay?

And thanks for your comments on old Digger Harkness.

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Dear Suicide Note takers,

Well, I read the latest SQUAD and find myself writing to you again. I don't really know exactly how to put it, but the story wasn't all that amazing. I like Boomerang well enough, but after the "Caging the Tiger" story this seemed kind of dull and didn't tell me anything about him I didn't know. If anything, it gave me some insight on Deadshot, whose "so what" attitude would lead a person to believe that he doesn't care about anything. It seems obvious to me that he likes to hang out with the Squad if only to be somewhere where he fits in. His comments to Boomerang told me this and also explained why he spared Waller. (Unfortunately.)

This new Atom doesn't look too impressive being a human fax—convenient, maybe, but not too impressive. As for his identity, I don't know, and I don't care much. But I could see his being the original with new powers. All this metahuman explosion silliness is getting on my nerves. I liked the word when I first heard it because it was different. Now it's getting played-out. Let's hear about aliens, demons, mutants, and altered humans. I also want to remind you that except for "Faxman," nobody on the Squad has any powers. So don't just toss that word around. One more thing about this new Atom (if he's not the original): I certainly hope you are not going to bring him back with a lame explanation of how he's alive. One of the things I like about the Squad is that dead is dead. I don't think you have to kill a certain number of people to have a good book, but when you finish them, it should be over. I also hope you understand as well that being the most popular has nothing to do with being the best. As far as I'm concerned, the Squad is the best reading I've come across in comics except maybe THE WATCHMEN or ELEKTRA ASSASSIN. Well, I'll write again next month. Don't take the criticism too hard. One issue that wasn't intense enough for me won't make me stop reading.

Barry Burke
2201 Palmer Avenue, Apt. 1C
New Rochelle, NY 10801

Thanks for writing, Barry. But don't worry about anyone returning from the dead. If they're dead, they're dead. And if they're not, they're alive.

What am I talking about?

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Dear Dan,

SUICIDE SQUAD #44 adds a new dimension to Boomerang. He's still the butt of a joke, but not a funny one.

I had been curious how the team would bond together. Now I see that the bond is that they have nowhere better to go.

It's good to see that the Squad's new status hasn't hindered Amanda's abilities to recruit new members.

Melissa Page
236 New Salem Loop
Nortonville, KY 42442

Thanks for writing, Melissa: But I still think Boomerang is funny. Just look at his hat.

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TO: John Ostrander, Dave M. DeVries, and Luke McDonnell
RE: The reappearance of the Atom in SUICIDE SQUAD #44

THANK YOU!!!
Tim Durbin
(No address given)

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Dear Suicide crew,

Pertaining to issue #44: It was a long time coming, but we finally know the story of Boomerang. He has a best friend, but what he needs is a friend like that back in the States. Will Mr. Lawton be his buddy (they're both orphans)? Will Boomerang ever be close to his newly found real father? And since he wasn't close with the man he thought was his father, will he ever go back to visit him?

What I can't believe is your first page! The Atom dead! Who are you guys trying to kid? If this is true, in what book did it happen? If not, where is he? And who is this impostor claiming to be the new Atom?

See ya later
Goran Cica
Edmonton, AB
CANADA

This new Atom isn't telling his real identity, Goran, but as you'll see in this issue, he's just as heroic and moral as the original Atom.

* * * * *

Dear Squad,

Thank you. It's great to see the Atom active in comics again. He wouldn't quite fit in with the new Justice Leagues. In the revised DC continuity Ray Palmer must be getting on in years, what with Hal Jordan's grey streaks and Oliver Queen over forty. Come to think of it, all of Bruce Wayne's hair should be grey. In future issues I would love to see a meeting between Ray and his ex-wife Jean because theirs is one of my favorite romances.

The Boomerang story was great. I'm starting to like the character's portrayal in SUICIDE SQUAD and this is from an old Flash fan who always hated the character.

Sincerely,
Eddie Morton
3552 Bramble
Peterborough, ONT
CANADA

Now hear this: That wasn't Ray Palmer! Didn't you read the first page? It said he was dead! So he's dead! Dead! Dead!

This is one of the strangest jobs a guy can have.

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Dear Squad guys,

I'm not really sure how to take the changes in the Squad just yet, but I'll always be a faithful reader, if you'll just keep Major Victory around!

Sincerely,
Hurricane Hugo Jr.

P.S. Please add Major Force into the pot! He's a favorite of mine.

Hurricane, I've been working on John and Kim to bring Major Victory back (we haven't seen him since the Apokolips storyline), but I can't promise anything. I guess you'll have to keep reading to find out!

THE NEXT ISSUE BOX THAT ERASED MY MEMORY!

Well, after this issue's bloodbath (do you MISS Ravan?), the Squad goes stateside to visit an old friend: Dr. Simon LaGrieve at the Institute for Meta-Human Studies. Seems he's been in touch with Oracle, an old ally of the Squad, and she's in trouble. But there's a catch: no one knows who she is (but us)! See you!

Dan Raspler,
hitting the deck